

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 to recite limitations that were inherent in the structure recited in the original claims without changing claim scope. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been also amended to correct minor matters of English usage. Applicant has added new claim 7.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter.

The Examiner requested that the expression "turning lever 80" at page 4, line 25, of the specification be changed to "turning lever 54." Applicant has amended the specification accordingly.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,329,325 (Clark). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 states that the first and second forwarding pawls are configured to engage with and drive the forwarding gear alternatively upon a rotational movement of the forwarding lever in a predetermined direction so that each of the rotational movements of the forwarding lever generates a rotation of the forwarding gear by a half tooth pitch of the forwarding gear. The expression "drive the forwarding gear" added by the amendment is inherent in the structure of original claim 1 because original claim 1 states that the rotational movements of the forwarding lever having the first and second forwarding pawls generate the rotation of the forwarding gear. Thus, this amendment does not change claim scope.

The Examiner equates Clark's escapement teeth 694 and 696 to the claimed first and second forwarding pawls. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The claimed first and second forwarding pawls are configured to engage with and drive the forwarding gear upon the rotational movement of the forwarding lever. In other words, the movement of the claimed forwarding lever translates into the movement of the first and second forwarding pawls that moves the forwarding gear with the claimed pitch. An example of such a mechanical structure is explained, for example, at page 4, line 22 - page 5, line 11, of the specification and FIG. 2 of the application. On the other hand, Clark's escapement teeth 694 and 696, which the Examiner equates to the claimed first and second forwarding pawls, do not drive Clark's escapement wheel

662, which the Examiner equates to the claimed forwarding gear. Instead, Clark's escapement teeth 694 and 696 stop the rotation of Clark's forwarding gear that is driven by Clark's motor 540. See, for example, column 4, lines 11-15, of Clark. Thus, Clark's escapement teeth 694 and 696 do not drive the forwarding gear as claimed because Clark's forwarding gear itself rotates driven by the motor 540.

Claim 4 also recites the forwarding pawls that drive the forwarding gear. The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 under 35 USC 103(a) over Clark should be withdrawn because Clark does not teach or suggest the claimed forwarding pawls that drive the forwarding gear.

In light of the above, a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**, referencing Docket No. 492322014600.

Respectfully submitted,



By:

Barry E. Bretschneider
Registration No. 28,055

Dated: January 21, 2005

Morrison & Foerster LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 300
McLean, VA 22102-3915
Telephone: (703) 760-7743
Facsimile: (703) 760-7777